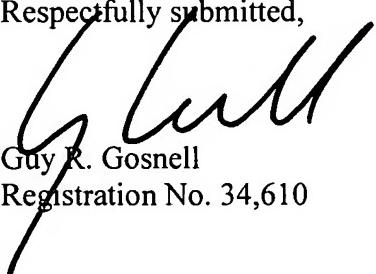


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of the application. The Preliminary Amendment amends the claims to remove multiple dependencies by rewriting claims that were previously presented in multiple dependent format in a single or simple dependent format. See, for example, the amendments to Claims 3 and 7 and the introduction of new Claims 8-10. Additionally, Claim 5 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

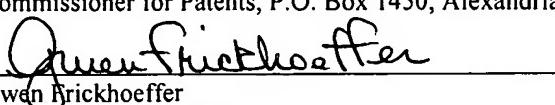
It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Guy R. Gosnell
Registration No. 34,610

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV 440848348 US
Date of Deposit June 5, 2006

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Gwen Frickhoeffer